

Remarks

By this response, claim 52 is amended to correct a minor typographical error.

Applicant elects Species I, with traverse. Species I is alleged to comprise Figs. 1 and 2, which show plan and fragmentary views of a panel.

The Office action acknowledges that independent claim 48 is generic. Thus, claim 48 reads on Species I. Applicant respectfully submits, however, that independent claims 38 and 52 are also generic. Claims 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54 and 55 read on Species I.

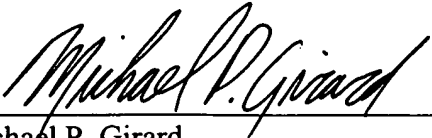
Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of Species I and Species II is sufficiently related such that a thorough search for the subject matter of either species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the other species. Therefore, the search and examination of Species I and II could be made without serious burden. See MPEP § 803, which states that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims directed to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the policy embodied in § 803 should apply in the present application to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to applicant and prevent duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Prompt examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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